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HONDURAS.

Report from Puerto Cortez—No yellow fever present.

Consul Johnson reports, January 3, as follows:

Puerto Cortez, San Pedro Sula, and other towns in this consular district are at present free from yellow fever.

JAPAN.

Report from Yokohama—Inspection of vessels—Plague conditions in Kobe and Osaka—Shimonoseki probably infected.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Moore reports, December 16, as follows:

During the week ended December 9, 1905, bills of health were granted, after inspection, to 7 vessels having an aggregate personnel of 137 passengers and 498 crew; 102 steerage passengers and 56 crew were bathed and their clothing was disinfected; 71 aliens, would-be steerage passengers to the United States, were examined with special reference to their freedom from any loathsome or dangerous contagious disease barred by the United States immigration laws.

Plague.—This disease continues present in Kobe and Osaka, and the situation shows little evidence of improvement in either city, notwithstanding the vigorous efforts of both central and local authorities. Plague has also made its appearance in Shimonoseki, where 3 probable cases have been discovered. It may again be mentioned that Shimonoseki is separated only by a narrow strait from Moji, one of the most important coaling ports in the East, where many vessels bound for America call. There being no American consul at Moji, United States consular bills of health can not be obtained.

Report from Kobe—Measures for preventing spread of plague—Summary of plague at Kobe and Osaka.

Consul Sharp reports, December 9, as follows:

The quarantine regulations of the United States relative to infected places are being strictly enforced here.

Local measures.—The locality in which a plague case has been found is inclosed by a zinc fence, and after all the rats on the premises have been destroyed, the place is carefully disinfected. Persons suspected of being infected with the disease are removed for a certain period to a place of detention, where their physical condition is carefully watched. They are allowed to return home after it has been satisfactorily proved that they are not infected with the disease.

To encourage the extermination of rats, on account of their being a medium of infection, a reward is given by the authorities for each living or dead rat produced, both in Kobe and Osaka and in the villages of these districts. These rats are examined, and when plague bacilli are discovered in any of them the places in which they were caught are disinfected in the same manner as when plague patients are found. Post-mortem examinations are held on all deceased persons and daily examinations of the health of the public are made by the medical inspectors. Compulsory house cleaning and disinfection are now being enforced in the districts where it is thought the disease may be lurking.